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TRANSFORMERS
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1984 – 2004
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CYBERTRON: A MECHANICAL WORLD WHERE THE HEROIC AUTOBOTS AND EVIL DECEPTICONS HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN A DEADLY CIVIL WAR FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS. WITH THE LEADERS OF BOTH SIDES MISSING AND ENERGY LEVELS LOW, THE CONFLICT HAS NOW BECOME CONFUSED AND DESPERATE. THIS IS THE ERA OF THE MICROMASTERS

DECEPTICON HQ:
SHOCKWAVE'S WAR ROOM_

WELCOME *HOME*, INTERSTELLAR ASSAULT LEADER *SKYSTALKER*!

AFTER YOUR LONG ABSENCE, I FEARED YOU AND AERIAL ASSAULT COMMANDER SKYHOPPER MIGHT *NEVER* RETURN.

AS DID WE.

"RECIPE FOR HATE"

WRITERS JAMES MCDONOUGH
ADAM PATYK
PENCILS ROB RUFFOLO
INKS ERIK SANDER
COLORS SIG TORRE
ERIC BURNS
JOSH PEREZ
JOSH BURCHAM
LETTERS BEN LEE

MOST OF OUR GROUP DIDN'T RETURN, UNFORTUNATELY.
BUT IT DOES DO MY CIRCUITS GOOD TO RECEIVE SUCH A WARM AND SINCERE RECEPTION... WOULDN'T YOU SAY, SKYHOPPER?
HEH--OH, YEAH.
I'M ALL WARM AND TOASTY INSIDE.
ER, YES...WELL, I AM CERTAINLY PLEASED TO SEE YOU RETURN, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE INFORMATION YOU'VE BROUGHT ABOUT YOUR DISCOVERY.
WITH OUR INTERSTELLAR COMMUNICATIONS LARGELY SHUT DOWN, IT WAS INCREDIBLY FORTUNATE THAT YOUR TRANSMISSION MADE IT THROUGH TO US.
NOT SO FORTUNATE FOR THE INHABITANTS OF KYRON... SKYHOPPER AND I HAD TO DRAIN THAT ENTIRE WORLD DRY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ENOUGH ENERGY FOR THE CROSS-GALAXY BROADCAST TO CYBERTRON.
BUT NO SENSE GRIEVING OVER SPILT ENERGON, IS THERE? I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE THAT THE INFORMATION WAS WELL WORTH THE PRICE THEY PAID.
QUITE SO.
COUNTDOWN DID ARRIVE, JUST AS YOU SAID HE WOULD. I'VE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO TRACK HIS MOVEMENTS, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE DOING EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO CLOAK HIMSELF FROM STANDARD DETECTION DEVICES, FORCING ME TO RELY ON YOUR SECONDARY SUGGESTION.
AS YOU PREDICTED, HE DID ATTEMPT RECRUITMENT. I RELEASED SOME PROBABLE CANDIDATES AND ORCHESTRATED A SITUATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE COUNTDOWN'S INVOLVEMENT IN ORDER TO DRAW HIM OUT.
SO, YOU'VE LOCATED HIM! HAVE YOU RETRIEVED THE ARTIFACT?
PATIENCE, SKYSTALKER. NOT QUITE YET. BASED ON YOUR STATEMENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SITUATION, I OVERSAW IT PERSONALLY.
ALTHOUGH OUR CANDIDATES DIDN'T ACCOMPANY COUNTDOWN'S PARTNER BACK TO THEIR BASE, THEY CAME IN CONTACT WITH THOSE WHO DID.
LOGIC DICTATED THEY WOULD DO SO AGAIN, SO I HAD TO REVEAL MYSELF IN ORDER TO PLANT A TRACER ON THEM AND SALVAGE THE SITUATION.* AND NOW...
*SEE MICROMASTERS #2

"...IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME."
NOW, I GUESS WE'LL JUST--
LITTLE IACON_
--JUST KEEP BEING A LOSER?
I--
AH, FORGET IT, ROAD HUGGER. I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOU, AND I'M NOT HERE TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND ANYTHING.
WHAT...?
IT'S JUST NOT WORTH IT.
WHAT'S NOT WORTH IT?
I'M NOT WORTH IT?
MAYBE IT'LL BE WORTH THE TAILPIPE-KICKIN' I GIVE--
--YAAAAAAAH!
HUH?

MISSED HIM, BUT I SNAGGED THIS ONE!
THAT'S NOT ONE OF THEM! TOSS IT BACK!
MAYBE I CAN AT LEAST GET SOME ENERGON OUT OF HIM...
WHAT, ARE YOU TRYING TO SABOTAGE MY MISSION, TOO?
WAIT UNTIL AFTER!
HMMF.
AHH!
URRRG!
OH, NO! ROAD HUGGER!
WHAT DO WE DO? NONE OF US ARE ARMED!
FIXIT, YOU GOT A LOT TO LEARN.
LET'S WASTE 'EM!
DAMN STRAIGHT. THOSE'RE LITTLE IACON RULES: YOU STEP TO ONE OF US, YOU STEP TO ALL OF US. WHATEVER YOU'RE AFTER, YOU AIN'T GETTIN' IT.
YEAH-- CAP 'EM!!
...I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT!

THIS AIN'T NO COINCIDENCE... THESE MUTANTS ***FOLLOWED*** US!

YEAH?

LOOK AT THEIR CHESTS!

THEY'RE ***DECEPTICONS!***

IT'S BARRICADE AND HIS CREW-- IT'S ***GOTTA*** BE.

I'M TELLING YA, THEY MUST'A SOLD US OUT TO THOSE THINGS.

YOU THINK, TRIP-UP?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? THEY SAVED US, AND YOU ALL KNOW IT!

OH, YEAH, HUBS? THEN HOW'D THEY ***MAGICALLY*** MAKE IT THROUGH THE WASTELANDS AFTER WE LEFT?

AND HOW'D THESE FLYING FREAKS HAPPEN TO MAKE IT ***HERE?***

YOU DON'T THINK THEY COULD'A MADE A DEAL...

"...WITH THEIR DECEPTICON ***BUDDIES?***"

WHAT... HUBS?

WHERE ARE THEY GOING? ARE THEY GONNA ***LEAVE*** US HERE?

FORGET 'EM! TIME TO START THINKIN' 'BOUT ***NUMBER ONE!***

THE WASTELANDS: COUNTDOWN'S BASE_
OUR NUMBER ONE CONCERN IS THE FUTURE.
A FUTURE THAT CANNOT AFFORD THIS LEVEL OF IN-FIGHTING AND STRIFE AMONG OUR KIND...
IT'S A BITTER AND TELLING IRONY THAT THESE YOUNG MICROMASTERS WOULD NEVER HAVE JOINED THE CONFLICT IF WE HADN'T TAUGHT THEM TO DO SO.
JUST ONE OF THE MANY MISDEEDS WE AS A RACE MUST ATONE FOR...
THIS IS FAN-SPARKIN'-TASTIC... IT'S NOT LIKE WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE ALREADY! FIRST WE GOTTA PLAY PROTOSITTER TO THOSE YOUNG PUNKS--AND NOW TO TOP IT OFF WE'VE GOTTA DEAL WITH HIM...
HEY! TIME TO MOUNT UP, COUNTDOWN!
I JUST DID A SWEEP OF INCOMING SECURITY DATA AND IT'S BAD: SKYSTALKER'S BACK IN TOWN AND BIG DADDY AND HIS CREW ARE IN BIG TROUBLE IN THE CITY! IT'S TIME TO REGULATE!
HMMM...
YES, GROUNDSHAKER.
I AM AWARE OF THE SITUATION.
WHAT?
I'VE PATCHED IN MY INTERNAL SCANNERS TO THE ESTABLISHED SATELLITE NETWORK--I'M NOW ABLE TO SIMULTANEOUSLY KEEP TRACK OF ALL FEEDS.
AND? WHY THE PIT AREN'T WE GOIN' OUT THERE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT THEN? YOU KNOW THOSE FREAKS ARE AFTER BIG DADDY'S CREW BECAUSE OF US-- THIS IS OUR FAULT!
AGAIN, I KNOW.

HOWEVER, NOW IS *NOT* THE TIME FOR US TO REACT.

WHEN'S IT *GONNA* BE "THE TIME," THEN?

WHEN THEY'RE *DEAD?!*

I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ALL ABOUT GOING THROUGH THE UNIVERSE TO LEND A HELPING HAND WHEN THINGS GET RAW, *RIGHT?*

SO LET'S GO-- RIGHT *NOW*--TO HANDLE SOMETHING THAT'S GOING WRONG RIGHT *HERE*.

GROUNDSHAKER, MY FRIEND... *PLEASE*.

WHILE I APPRECIATE YOUR *INPUT*, THIS ISN'T JUST *YOUR* DECISION TO MAKE.

YOU NEVER KNOW WITH THAT *CRAZY* GROUNDSHAKER-- ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU TOLD THE AUTOBOTS IN YOUR MESSAGE? YOU'RE MUCH BETTER AT SLINGIN' WORDS THAN ME, BUT I THINK THAT WAS THE GIST OF IT.

SURPRISED? DON'T BE. I KNOW *ALL* ABOUT THAT OLD TRANSFER REQUEST TO GET ME OFF THE MISSION.* WAY TO FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT--BY STABBING THE ONE GUY WHO SUPPORTED YOU STRAIGHT THROUGH HIS SPARK.

MAYBE ALL THE OTHERS WERE *RIGHT* ABOUT YOU.

...YOU *KNEW?*

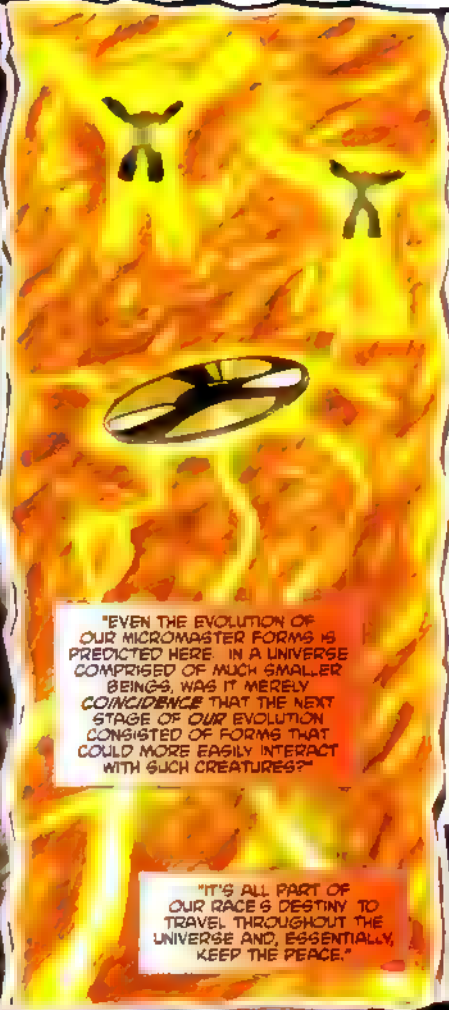
GROUNDSHAKER...I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW *SORRY* I AM. I MADE THAT REPORT IN *ERROR*, AND I'VE COME TO REGRET IT EVER SINCE. I DO VALUE, AND ALWAYS HAVE VALUED, YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CAUSE.

IT'S BEEN A *GREAT* HONOR TO SERVE ALONGSIDE YOU AND, AS FIELD COMMANDER, YOU'RE ENTITLED TO KNOW THE TRUE REASONS BEHIND OUR MISSION'S NEW DIRECTION. COME WITH ME...

BLIP

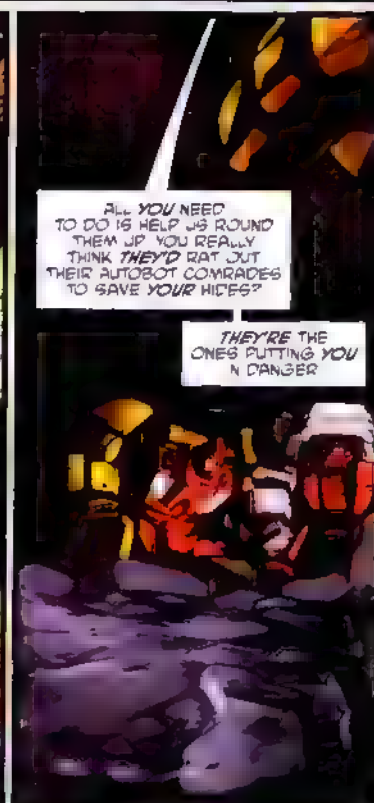
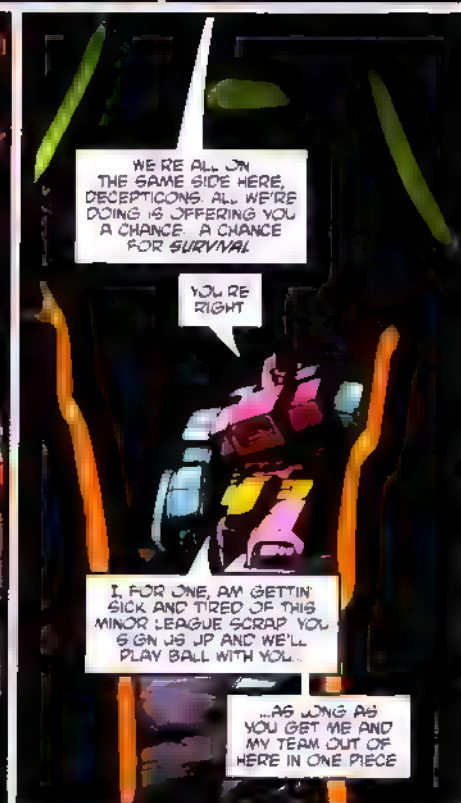
CHHHRRRR

...AND LET ME SHOW YOU *WHY* OUR ACTIONS ARE SO IMPORTANT.

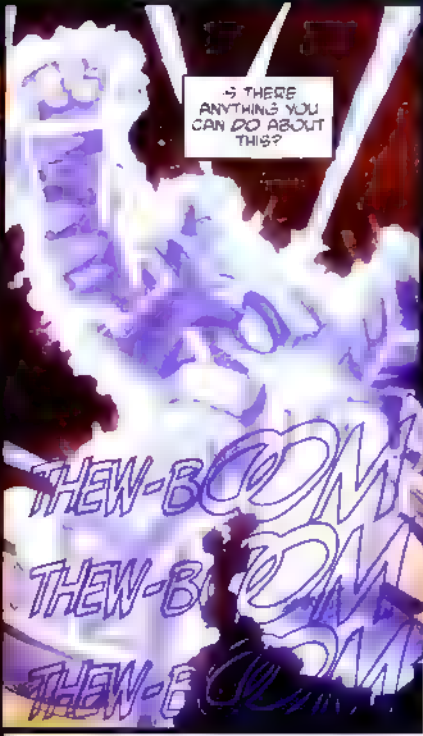
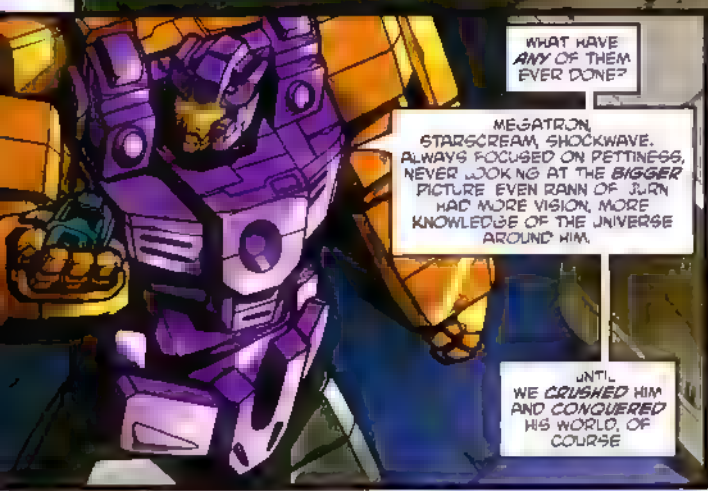
*MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE #3

THIS IS WHAT I DISCOVERED ON PARADRON.
"A GOLDEN DISK, ONE THAT CONTAINS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION. MUCH OF WHICH SEEMED TO BE DIRECTLY BEAMED FROM CYBERTRON, ALTHOUGH THE TWO WORLDS HAVE NO HISTORY OF CONNECTION OR COMMUNICATION."
"DIDN'T IT STRIKE YOU AS ODD THAT THE PARADRONS WERE NEARLY IDENTICAL IN BASIC DESIGN TO CYBERTRONIANS?"
"EVEN THE EVOLUTION OF OUR MICROMASTER FORMS IS PREDICTED HERE. IN A UNIVERSE COMPRISED OF MUCH SMALLER BEINGS, WAS IT MERELY COINCIDENCE THAT THE NEXT STAGE OF OUR EVOLUTION CONSISTED OF FORMS THAT COULD MORE EASILY INTERACT WITH SUCH CREATURES?"
"IT'S ALL PART OF OUR RACE'S DESTINY TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE AND, ESSENTIALLY, KEEP THE PEACE."
"THESE FORMS WE HAVE.. THEY'RE DICTATED BY WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO. DID YOU EVER WONDER WHY OUR BODIES WERE DESIGNED TO RESEMBLE VEHICLES FOR SMALLER BEINGS, LONG BEFORE WE HAD EVEN MET SUCH BEINGS?"
"THERE'S MORE HERE, BUT SURELY YOU CAN SEE NOW HOW VITAL IT IS THAT WE KEEP THIS INFORMATION OUT OF THE WRONG HANDS. WE HAVE TO DO THIS RIGHT."
BUT AREN'T YOU LOSING TRACK OF WHAT IS RIGHT?
WHO ARE WE TO PICK AND CHOOSE WHEN AND WHO WE HELP?

OUTSIDE LITTLE IACON.
CHOP SHOP, ANY LUCK LOCATING THEM YET?
KEEP IT IN GEAR, TWERP!
I WOULDN'T TEST HIM, MICRO. HE HASN'T SLAGGED ANYTHING IN CYCLES.
NEGATIVE.

THERE'S NO SIGN OF 'EM. MAYBE THOSE LITTLE SCRAPLETS CRAWLED UP UNDER A ROCK OR SOMETHING?
NOW IT'S LIKE THE MISSION ITSELF IS TRYING TO SABOTAGE ME!
SHOCKWAVE GAVE US EXPRESS ORDERS TO LOCATE THE HOT ROD PATROL! IF WE DON'T

OKAY, MICROMASTERS. I KNOW YOU'RE ALL A TIGHT-KNIT GROUP, SO WE NEED TO GET A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT HERE.
FIRST, WE WEREN'T SENT HERE TO THRASH YOU--WE'RE LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC GROUP OF AUTOBOTS.
IF YOU DECEPTICONS ARE WILLING TO ASSIST US, WE'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO HQ--NO PROBLEM. WE'LL GET YOU OFF THESE DIRTY STREETS, SUPPLY YOU WITH SOME ENERGON, AND PUT YOU IN SOME NICE, CLEAN STASIS CHAMBERS.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS HELP US ROUND THEM UP. YOU REALLY THINK THEY'D RAT OUT THEIR AUTOBOT COMRADES TO SAVE YOUR HIDES?
THEY'RE THE ONES PUTTING YOU IN DANGER.

WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE HERE, DECEPTICONS. ALL WE'RE DOING IS OFFERING YOU A CHANCE. A CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I, FOR ONE, AM GETTIN' SICK AND TIRED OF THIS MINOR LEAGUE SCRAP. YOU SIGN US UP AND WE'LL PLAY BALL WITH YOU...
...AS LONG AS YOU GET ME AND MY TEAM OUT OF HERE IN ONE PIECE.

YOU HELP US FIND THAT AUTOBOT WASTE AND CONSIDER IT A DONE DEAL.
GLAD TO SEE SOME OF YOU HAVE SOME COMMON SENSE HERE.

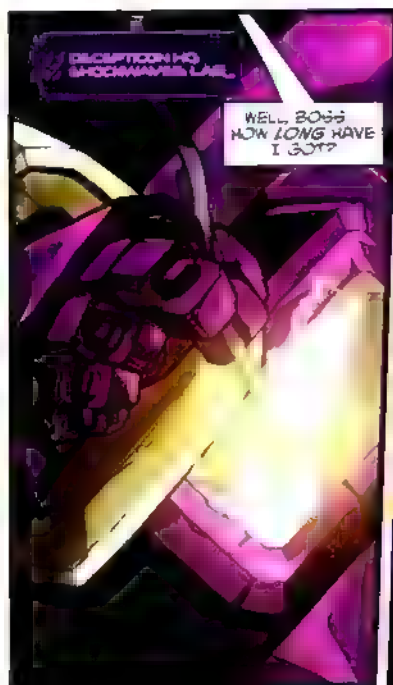
YOU *HONESTLY* THINK WE'RE GONNA SIGN UP WITH YOU CANNIBALISTIC *FREAK-JOBS?!*
YOU GOTTA BE OUTTA YOUR MIND
YOU TELL YOUR BOSS OLD ONE EYE, THAT HE CAN TAKE MY POINTY PURPLE BADGE AND *SHOVE* IT
IS THAT CORRECT?
YEAH. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA *DO* ABOUT IT?
I SUPPOSE THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH THAT *I* CAN DO ABOUT IT
BARRAGE
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN *DO* ABOUT THIS?
THEW-BOOM!
THEW-B
ANYONE *ELSE* WISH TO RESCIND THEIR DECEPTICON MEMBERSHIP?
NO?
GOOD
NOW LET'S FIND THOSE AUTOBOTS, SHALL WE?

"YOU'RE WELCOME TO MOVE YOUR BELONGINGS BACK INTO OUR BARRACKS."
WHO DOES SHOCKWAVE THINK HE IS? CONDESCENDING JERK.
THAT FOOL. HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
STILL ARROGANT, STILL UNDERESTIMATING ME. YOU. ALL THOSE HE DEEMS "*INFERIOR*."
CONSTANTLY TRYING TO DIMINISH OTHERS BECAUSE HE KNOWS BETTER. AND YET.. WHAT HAS *HE* EVER *ACTUALLY* ACCOMPLISHED?
WHAT HAVE *ANY* OF THEM EVER DONE?
MEGATRON, STARSCREAM, SHOCKWAVE. ALWAYS FOCUSED ON PETTINESS, NEVER LOOKING AT THE *BIGGER* PICTURE. EVEN RANN OF JURN HAD MORE VISION, MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIVERSE AROUND HIM.
UNTIL WE *CRUSHED* HIM AND *CONQUERED* HIS WORLD, OF COURSE.
ALL THE FOES AND WOULD-BE CONQUERORS WE'VE FACED HAVE SHARED THE *SAME* TRAITS: BASELESS ARROGANCE, A LACK OF IMAGINATION.. AND AN INCREASINGLY BLIND IGNORANCE TO WHAT CONSTITUTES A *REAL* THREAT.
YOU AND I HAVE SEEN.. LEARNED THINGS THAT WOULD MAKE THESE FOOLS *QUIVER* IN TERROR. IT'S THIS INFORMATION THAT SHOCKWAVE COVETS. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE NEED TO GET ALL OF IT FROM COUNTDOWN BEFORE HE CAN.
SO, WHAT ARE WE *WAITIN'* FOR?

WE *DON'T*.

KEEP ON IT -- WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
YEAH? AND WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ONCE WE GET THERE? IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, WE DIDN'T LEAVE ON THE BEST OF TERMS. I MEAN, WHAT EXACTLY DO WE TELL THEM...?
"HEY, BOTS, WE KNOW WE TOLD YOU TO SLAG OFF, BUT NOW WE'RE BACK CAUSE WE NEED HELP!"
YEAH, I'M SURE THAT'LL FLY WITH THEM!
AHH, I KNOW!
BUT, I'M HOPING IT WON'T MATTER. MAYBE... MAYBE THEY'LL ACTUALLY PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH AND ACT THE WAY THEY'RE ALWAYS SAYING US AUTOBOTS SHOULD.
PLUS... AND MAYBE IT'S A LITTLE WEAK... BUT WHAT IF THEY DO SHOW UP, AND SAVE THE AUTOBOT AND DECEPTICON MICROMASTERS? MAYBE WE CAN SHOW THEM THAT WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE AND JUST STOP THIS STUPID FIGHTING ONCE AND FOR ALL!
B-G-- IS YOU A FOOL?
WE THOUGHT WE WERE COOL WITH BARRICADE AND THEM, AND THEN THEY TURNED AROUND AND SHANKED US IN THE BACK!
WE DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE!
RIGHT. BUT WE DON'T KNOW THAT THEY DIDN'T, EITHER. CAN YOU TELL ME THAT YOU 100 PERCENT TRUST THOSE MICROS RIGHT NOW?
I DUNNO.
AND THAT'S WHY THIS SLAG'S GONNA KEEP GOING FOREVER.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE A TOUGH ENOUGH TIME C ING THE AUTOBOTS TO TRUST US, ESPECIALLY IF THOSE TAILPIPE-SMOKING BATTLE PATROL GOONS TOLD MAGNUS THEIR SIDE OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH US.
MICROMASTERS •
PRIMUS, I DON'T WANNA SEE THOSE BOLT-CHEWING MICROS AGAIN ANYTIME SOO--
AH SLAG!

WELL... WELL, LOOK WHAT THE GARBAGE TRANSPORT DRAGGED IN!
TSK, TSK. I THOUGHT THE WASTE DISPOSAL ALREADY DISCARDED THIS CYCLE'S TRASH.
WHATTAYA KNOW? IT'S THE FLIP-FLOPPIN' MICROMASTERS FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE AUTOBOT HOT ROD PATROL! HOW'D WE GET SO LUCKY?
JUST A MOMENT. WEREN'T THESE BUDDING PHILOSOPHERS JUST TOO INTELLECTUAL TO STAY WITH THE LOW-BROW, GUN TOTING AUTOBOTS?
WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY WANT HERE?
BEATS ME. LET'S ASK 'EM AND SEE WHAT'S UP!
I MEAN, IF WE'RE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEM TO EVEN TALK TO, THAT IS.
LISTEN. WE GET THE DRILL. WE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT US. YEAH, WE GET IT.
BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT THAT. THERE'S TROUBLE. BIG TROUBLE IN LITTLE ACON.
DIDN'T YOU GUYS SEE IT OVER THE VIDEO FEEDS?
NAH, WE HAVEN'T SEEN SCRAP.
THE FEED'S DOWN. WE FIGURED YOU PUNKS WERE MESSIN' WITH IT SO YOU COULD SCREW AROUND OUT THERE WITHOUT ANYONE WATCHIN'!
BUT WE DIDN'T DO THAT. SOMEBODY ELSE MUST BE JAMMING THE SIGNAL TO AUTOBASE!
WE'VE GOTTA TELL MAGNUS AND MAX MUG WHAT'S GOING ON!
WHY, OF COURSE! GOOD HEAVENS--THIS IS BIGGER THAN JUST US!
SWEET PRIMUS, WE MUST DO SOMETHING, SIDETRACK!
RIGHT. JUST AS SOON AS THEY GIVE US THE PASSCODE TO GET IN.
MICRO, SAY WHAT?!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! YOU KNOW US, YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE!
LAST I HEARD, YOU WERE DONE WITH US AUTOBOTS. AND EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T, YOU'D STILL NEED CLEARANCE TO GET IN. I KNOW YOU DON'T GIVE A SCRAP ABOUT 'EM, BUT RULES ARE RULES.
NOW, SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT.
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF PRIMUS. "V-SIGMA-19-84."
SORRY, THAT WAS LAST CYCLE'S PASSWORD.
GRR. WHAT ABOUT THE IDENTIFIERS HARD-WIRED INTO OUR AUTOBOT SYMBOLS?
OH, THOSE? I WENT AHEAD AN' HAD YOURS DEACTIVATED AFTER YOU LEFT. NOTHIN' PERSONAL, OF COURSE. JUST FOLLOWIN' PROCEDURE.

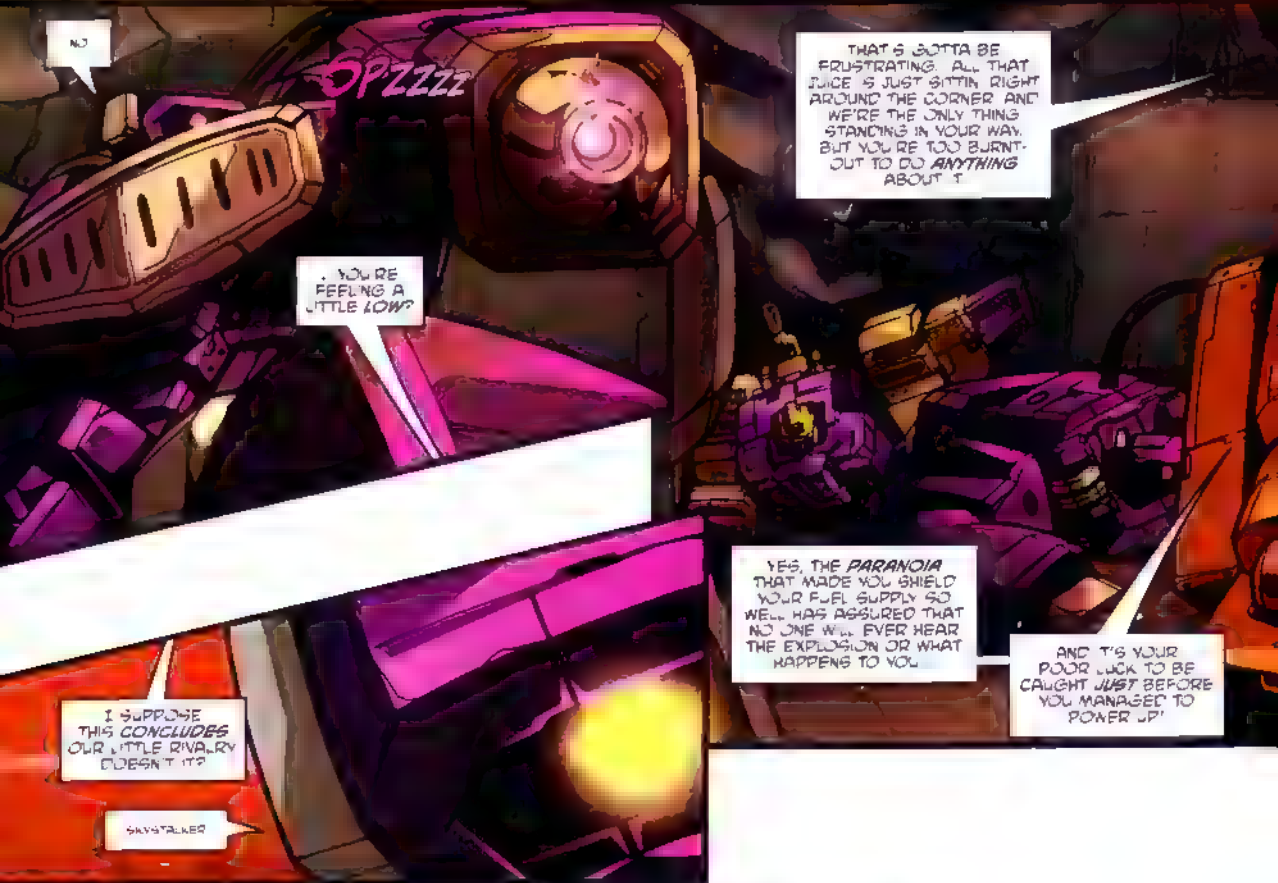
SIDETRACK, REPORT. FLAK AND I HAVE GOT OUR ENTRANCE COVERED. NOTHING GOING ON HERE. STAKEOUT WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AT YOUR END.
OH, NOTHIN', BIG SHOT. SOME OLD FRIENDS JUST STOPPED BY TO VISIT. BUT THEY'RE LEAVIN' NOW.
TA-TA FOR NOW! HA-HA-HA!
SLAG THESE BOLT BAGS. WE'LL FIGURE OUT ANOTHER WAY.
UH-HUH.
RIGHT. BUT WHAT?
I MEAN, WE COULD TRY THE OTHER.
HEY! BIG DADDY.
I WAS OVERSEEING THIS SECURITY SHIFT, AND I CAUGHT YOU GUYS ON THE MONITOR TELLING THOSE STIFFS WHAT WAS GOING ON.
SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG, BUT I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP.
SO I BROKE THESE OUT OF THE LOCKER ROOM FOR YOU.
IT ISN'T MUCH, BUT IT'S ALL I COULD SNAG WITHOUT DRUMMIN' UP ANY SUSPICIOUS OPTICS.
AW, BABY, I MISSED YOU!
I WISH I COULD TAKE YOU GUYS IN AND GIVE YOUR CASE RIGHT TO MAX, BUT SIDETRACK REALLY DID A NUMBER ON YOUR REP AFTER YOU LEFT.
I CAN TRY TO GET YOU IN TO SEE THEM--
WE DON'T HAVE TIME, STAKEOUT.
YOU TELL THEM WHAT'S GOING ON. THE DECEPTICONS ARE SHREDDING LITTLE ACON. SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DO SOMETHING BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
AND I THINK I KNOW THE ONLY 'BOT WHO CAN.

EN ROUTE TO DECEPTICON HQ...
HEY, CHOP SHOP, YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE MY SONIC RIFLE AROUND, DID YOU? I PUT IT DOWN AFTER BLASTING THAT UPSTART, AND NOW I CAN'T FIND IT.
WHAT RIFLE? *OH*, YOUR *GUN*. YEAH.
NAH, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING.
YOU *SURE?*
UH, YEP. POSITIVE.
I HAVEN'T SEEN SLAG.
I CAN'T *BELIEVE* YOU'RE MAKING US DO THIS, BARRICADE.
YOU SURE YOU'RE SURE?
THESE GUYS AREN'T EVEN LOYAL TO EACH OTHER! WHY THE PIT DID YOU SELL OUR BOYS OUT TO THESE SCRAPHEAPS?!
LOOK, DON'T PLAY ARMCHAIR QUARTERBACK WITH ME, K.O.
YES, I'M SURE.
I HAD TO DO WHAT WAS BEST FOR THE TEAM. THOSE FREAKS HAD US BY THE BOLTS. WHEN ARE YOU GONNA LEARN THAT THE *ONLY* WAY TO WIN IS TO STAY *STRONG?* YOU GO WEAK, YOU'RE *DEAD*. THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM-- YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOO *SOFT*.
IF I DIDN'T MAKE A MOVE WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE ENDED UP ON THE WRONG END OF THEIR BLASTERS LIKE THE *REST* OF THESE CHUMPS.
NO NEED TO GET SO UPTIGHT.
BESIDES, HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF THE OLD *FAKE-OUT?*

REALLY? SO THAT MEANS THAT THIS IS ALL A TRICK TO HELP
I KNEW YOU WEREN'T A SELL-OUT!
ALL THAT MEANS IS THAT I'LL DO WHAT'S BEST FOR US
YOU NEED TO SHUT UP WITH THAT!
-MMFF
LOOK AROUND YOU!
THIS AIN'T NO GAME WE'RE PLAYING HERE, KID. IT'S WAR -PLAIN AND SIMPLE. THAT PANSY ATTITUDE OF YOURS WILL ONLY GET YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR TEAMMATES SLAGGED!
AND IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANNA BE, I DON'T NEED YOU WITH US
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA SURVIVE IF YOU KEEP STRADDLING THE FENCE?
WELL, I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, 'BOT- YOU'RE NOT

DECEPTICON HQ. SHOCKWAVE'S LAB.
WELL, BOSS HOW LONG HAVE I GOT?
VERY AMUSING, BLITZWING
FORTUNATELY, IT WOULD SEEM THAT YOU HAVE ALL THE TIME ON CYBERTRON
YOUR VITAL SIGNS ARE STRONG. STRONGER THAN THEY EVER HAVE BEEN, IN FACT
YEAH?
WHAT ABOUT ALL THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN HAPPENING? THE PIECES GROWIN' ON ME THAT SICK SPELL?
ESSENTIALLY, BLITZWING, IT SEEMS THE PERIOD OF WEAKNESS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE BIZARRE SPONTANEOUS PHYSICAL CHANGES, IS SIMPLY A NATURAL STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT FOR YOU.
YOUR BODY, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN, IS BASICALLY REBUILDING ITSELF. IMPROVING
IT AIN'T JUST ME. ASTROTRAIN HAD SOME OF THE SAME PROBLEMS, TOO
IS THAT CORRECT? THIS CERTAINLY BEARS FURTHER INVESTIGATION
IT'S NOT UNLIKE OUR NATURAL RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS TO REPAIR DAMAGE, BUT ON A SELF REDESIGNING SCALE I'VE NEVER WITNESSED BEFORE
NO SLAG?
YOU MEAN, I'M GETTIN STRONGER?
NOT JUST STRONGER. DIFFERENT
BUT THE PROCESS IS IMPERFECT, POORLY FOCUSED. IF I COULD SOMEHOW ANALYZE AND CONCENTRATE IT
NO MATTER. THESE ARE ISSUES FOR ANOTHER TIME
A GREAT TRIAL STANDS BEFORE US. THIS NEW ARTIFACT SKYSTALKER SPOKE OF IS VITAL TO US. IT CORROBORATES CERTAIN THEORIES I HAVE ALREADY DEVISED. WITH THIS ADDED INFORMATION, OUR CAUSE WOULD TRIUMPH! I MUST BE ABLE TO COUNT ON YOUR UNFAILING ASSISTANCE IN THIS, BLITZWING
CAN I?
S-SURE, BOSS
OF COURSE!
EXCELLENT. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO FALTER NOW
WE HAVE COME MUCH TOO CLOSE
NOW I'LL REQUIRE YOU TO GUARD MY PRIVATE GENERATOR AREA AS I RECHARGE

UH, YEAH, SURE
SO, YOU SURE I'M GONNA BE *OKAY* RIGHT?
I AM CERTAIN
RIGHT NOW THE ONLY *UNCERTAINTY* THAT WE SHOULD CONCERN OURSELVES WITH IS *SKYSTALKER*
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF KEEPING A WARY OPTIC ON.
YEAH, HIM AND THAT SAWED OFF MANIAC SURE GIVES ME THE *CREEPS*
I WOULD NOT ALLOW HIM TO UPSET YOU TOO MUCH. I AM QUITE FAMILIAR WITH SKYSTALKER WHEN IT COMES TO HIS KIND
HEY, MAYBE YOU SHOULD'A KEPT THAT "WARY OPTIC" LOOKIN' IN *FRONT* OF YOU, INSTEAD.. YOU'VE ONLY GOT *ONE*, AFTER ALL
WHA WHAT...HIT US ?
HEH-HEH-HEH! WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW!
NOW, ON YOUR FEET GUZZLER!

WE AIN'T THROUGH WITH YOU YET!
WHY YOU ARROGANT
THIS IS NO JOKE
THE JOKE IS YOU TRYING TO STOP ME FROM SQUASHING YOU AND YOUR
AAGH
THAMM!
YOU WERE SAYIN'?
NOT BAD FOR SOMEONE WHO BECAME A "LOWLY MICROMASTER," IS IT?
LET US TRY AND AVOID ANY FURTHER PROBLEMS, SHALL WE, SHOCKWAVE?
PLEASE, SKYSTALKER
SKYHOPPER WAS ALWAYS THE STRONGER, WHEREAS YOU
ARE EASY PREY
I TOLD YOU EARLIER, SHOCKWAVE. I HAVE LEARNED MUCH.

BUT IT SEEMS *YOU* HAVE *NOT*
YOU MUST BE GETTING DESPERATE. SUCH AN ILL-PLANNED ASSAULT SEEMS SO BELOW YOU.
IS SOMETHING *WRONG?* PERHAPS
...YOU'RE FEELING A LITTLE *LOW?*
NO
OPZZZZ
THAT'S GOTTA BE FRUSTRATING. ALL THAT JUICE IS JUST SITTIN' RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, AND WE'RE THE ONLY THING STANDING IN YOUR WAY. BUT YOU'RE TOO BURNT-OUT TO DO *ANYTHING* ABOUT IT.
YES, THE *PARANOIA* THAT MADE YOU SHIELD YOUR FUEL SUPPLY SO WELL HAS ASSURED THAT NO ONE WILL EVER HEAR THE EXPLOSION OR WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU.
AND IT'S YOUR POOR LUCK TO BE CAUGHT *JUST* BEFORE YOU MANAGED TO POWER UP!
I SUPPOSE THIS *CONCLUDES* OUR LITTLE RIVALRY, DOESN'T IT?
SKYSTALKER

HEY, WHAT'S EVERYBODY GETTING READY FOR HERE?
WAR
WE'RE OUT FOR AN ASTROSEC AND EVERYTHING'S GOIN' HAYWIRE!
SOMETHING NOT RIGHT HERE. WHY WOULD SHOCKWAVE ENGAGE AN ATTACK WHEN WE'RE SO LOW ON FUEL?
JUST NOT HIS STYLE.
BARRICADE
JUST GOT A COMMUNIQUÉ FROM SHOCKWAVE; HE WANTS TO SEE YOU AND YOUR MICROMASTER COMPATRIOTS IMMEDIATELY.
GREAT. OUT OF THE SMELTING POOL

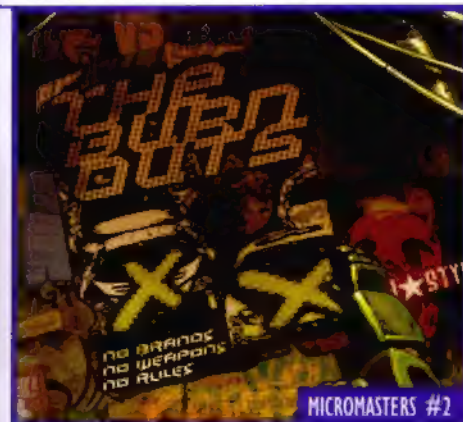
WHAT THE SLAG DO YOU THINK HE'S UP TO?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S MOUNTING EVERY SINGLE DECEPTICON IN THE BASE FOR SOME SORT OF MASSIVE ATTACK.
ISN'T THAT KIND OF WEIRD CONSIDERING THAT LACK OF RESOURCES YANG THAT HE WAS SPITTIN' AT US BEFORE?
GOT ME. IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE'S ON CODE RED. WHICH GETS ME WONDERING...
...WHO EXACTLY WE COULD BE GOING TO WAR--
--WITH.
SUPERB... WE'RE ALL HERE.
NOW, LET US PREPARE...
...FOR THE END.
TO BE CONCLUDED!

e-mail: tfmicromasters@dreamwaveprod.net

MICROMASTERS

TRANSFORMERS MICROMASTERS c/o Dreamwave Productions, 11 Allstate Parkway, Suite 200, Markham, Ontario, L3R 9T8 Canada

LITTLE HOOLIGANS!

THE MICROMASTERS GET DOWN WITH HOOLIGAN SKATEBOARDS

MICROMASTERS #2

What do Transformers, the Warped Tour, and skateboards all have in common? Hooligan, that's what.

To coincide with the direction and feel of Micromasters, Dreamwave recruited Hooligan Skateboard co-founder and Creative Director Darren P. Cruz to add a layer of punk rock-style authenticity to the Pat Lee cover of issue #2.

"We wanted something that would really show off a completely different side of the Transformers in this series," explained *Micromasters* writer Adam Patyk. "Part of that meant bringing in some fresh creative elements from the real world—stuff that we like and that we think accentuates the tone of the book."

"We were thinking of who could really bring that underground, street-level feel to the cover and really complement the gritty look of Pat's pencils," added *Micromasters* writer James McDonough.

Of course, the poster Cruz designed for *MM #2*'s cover is far from Hooligan's first big splash—they've been building their cred on the scene for a while. Cruz and Hooligan co-founder Brian Dorry initially set up shop two years ago, when Dorry suggested doing a specially designed skateboard for 9 Lives, a punk band he was managing at the time.

"It turns out another band I knew—Small Brown Bike—was also into the idea, so we cranked out 50 9 Lives and 50 SBB decks for both bands to sell while on the Warped Tour," said Dorry. "I then became friendly with Death By Stereo while on tour—they also wanted their own deck, and it's been a snowball effect ever since."

Making unique, band-specific skateboards quickly became Hooligan's claim to fame on the underground circuit, as they started to add several more up-and-coming bands to their roster, focusing primarily on the punk and hardcore scene.

"I think punk gives voices to many people who feel like an outcast or disassociated with 'normal' culture," explained Dorry. "It's a great form of expression and getting your message out to the world."

"There really aren't any skate companies that do what we do," added Cruz about Hooligan's approach to music-based boards. "We sponsor bands instead of skaters and work with the bands to design custom decks."

Their devotion to music and punk rock culture has helped propel them to relationships with bands like the Bouncing Souls and Poison the Well, not to mention a healthy relationship with Vans' Warped Tour, the yearly punk rock music festival.

"We did an exclusive, limited-edition 10-year anniversary deck for Vans this year to celebrate the Warped Tour's birthday," revealed Cruz.

The Warped Tour and punk culture also seem to be a great place for meeting Transformers fans, as McDonough discovered last year while visiting the tour with Cruz.

"It's definitely a trip to see how far-reaching the love for the original Transformers is," explained McDonough. "Last year, Darren and I were chillin' with the guys from Poison the Well talking about how cool it must be to actually get paid to do music, and they were laughing and saying how dope it must be to get to write Transformers comics!"

In addition to touring with Warped to promote their bands and decks, Hooligan will also soon release its own music compilation CD, featuring many of the bands they sponsor. For more info and a look at some of Hooligan's cool design work, check out www.hooliganskate.com!

#4 NEXT MONTH

It's time to choose! As SKYSTALKER consolidates his power, a confrontation with COUNTDOWN is inevitable... but which side will the MICROMASTERS decide to aid in this new DECEPTICON versus AUTOBOT conflict? For better or worse, their choices will dictate the course of the current struggle—and, more importantly, their own lives. This jam-packed final issue sets the stage for the future of CYBERTRON and the MICROMASTERS!

WAVELENGTHS

WAR IS COMING: DW BRINGS KILLZONE TO COMICS

Killzone is the next biggest thing in gaming – it sets a new precedent with recreating the intense reality of warfare. *Dreamwave* is psyched to be able to bring this amazing first-person shooter to the comic page - the hype leading up to the release of the *Killzone* game has been non-stop: gamers are saying this is the next *Halo*!

In *Dreamwave's* adaptation, the planet Vecta has been overrun with the vicious Helghast - those gun-toting, red-eyed humanoids that have one thing in mind: annihilation! Now it's up to the Interplanetary Strategic Alliance to stop them! Although it's a sci-fi story, one of the coolest aspects of the comic and the **Playstation2** game is its allusion to 20th century warfare. Everything from the weapons - based on WW2 Allies and Axis guns - to the battles themselves (based on some of the most famous fights of the past hundred years), has been researched and created to make one of the coolest war stories ever.

Written by **John Ney Rieber** (*TRANSFORMERS/G.I JOE Vol.1*) and with art by **Travel Foreman** (currently working on *Marvel's* much anticipated *Dr. Spectrum* series), *Killzone* is not to be missed! Rieber's words embody the excitement at *Dreamwave* about *Killzone*:

"I believe this game is going to redefine the genre – maybe even redefine the concept of the videogame – so when I was offered the chance to roll up my sleeves and work with these characters in this brutally textured future, to explore the stark vision of war the game embodies with an artist like Travel, my reaction was: load it up and pass me the controller! I have been waiting for an opportunity like this, and am psyched to be involved!"

It makes perfect sense that *Dreamwave* takes on *Killzone* - the game is packed with amazing features, incredible characters and hyper-detailed art – so look for more of the same in the comic! Follow the Interplanetary Strategic Alliance try and defeat the vicious Helghast as four scattered survivors unite to forge the key to humanity's continued existence. In order to so, they must make it through the dark tunnels in the bloody trenches and burning towers of a world that could become a Killzone…

Killzone #1 blazes into comic retailers everywhere this **November**.

DUEL MASTERS VOL.2 POCKET BOOK

TF ENERGON #27

TF GENERATION ONE #9

TF MICROMASTERS #4 of 4

TF WAR WITHIN "THE AGE OF WRATH" #1

TF WAR WITHIN VOL.2 "THE DARK AGES" TPB

FROM THE DESK OF
ERIK SANDER

HI MY NAME IS E-ROCK AND WELCOME TO MY WORK SHOP
4 YEARS I'VE BEEN INKIN' BUT THE WORK DON'T STOP
IT'S ALL GOOD THOUGH 'CAUSE MY SKILLZ U CAN'T TOP
MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT YOU CAN'T POP
I'LL INK IN A SUIT OR BOXERS AND A TANK TOP

I LOVE MY JOB SO I KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE
IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED YET I WORK AT DREAMWAVE

FROM TRANSFORMERS TO TURTLES WHAT CAN BE NEXT MAN
AWWWWWWWW GEEZ I GOT TO DO THE COVER OF X-MEN

AND IF THAT AIN'T ENOUGH TO PUT ME HIGH ON MY THRONE
PAT TO THA LEE GAVE ME THE HONOR OF WORKIN' ON KILLZONE

SOMETIMES THE EXCITMENT'S TOO MUCH, I CAN'T HANDLE IT ALL MAN
I GET TO WORK WITH THE BEST FROM PAT TO TRAVEL FOREMAN!

E-Rock

ERIK SANDER
INKER, DREAMWAVE PRODUCTIONS

SHOUT OUTS:
ALL DW PEEPS, FAMILY, STORE AND OF COURSE 24

BASE OF OPERATIONS:
Toronto, ON

CURRENT/UPCOMING PROJECTS:
Inker: *TF Micromasters, Killzone*

PAST PROJECTS:
Inker: *TMNT, Fate of the Blade, Shidima, Sandscape, TF War Within Vol.2*

FAVORITE MOVIE:
Versus

IF I COULD BE ANY TRANSFORMER TO BE:
Blaster. 'Cause he produces sick beats.

DREAM COMIC PROJECT:
Daredevil or Ninja Golden

WWW.DREAMWAVEPROD.COM
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